

REMARKS

Claims 25-77 are added in this supplemental preliminary amendment. Claims 1 and 25-77 are now pending in the application. The Applicant respectfully requests that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0439.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 27th day of June, 2001.

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In the paragraph at page 5, lines 10-13:

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B2
FIGs. 4(a)-4(c) are diagrams showing operation of controls of a computer program displayable within a graphical user interface, according to another embodiment of the invention;

In the paragraph at page 9, lines 11-20:

B3
Display device 200 of FIG. 2 includes screen 202 upon which graphical user interface 204 is displayed. Graphical user interface 204 includes user-controllable pointer 206, which is controlled by the user via a pointing device such as a mouse or touch pad of a computer such as that which has been described in conjunction with FIG. 1. As shown in FIG. 2, for illustrative purposes controls 208 and 210 are displayed within graphical user interface 204. Graphical user interface 204 is provided by operating system 212 having application code 214 and controls code 216; controls 208 are provided by application program 222 having application code 220 and controls code 218; and, controls 210 are provided by application program 224 having application code 226 and controls code 228.

In the paragraph at page 9, line 21, through page 10, line 6:

B4
Operating system 212 and application programs 222 and 224 are computer programs (software) residing within or upon a computer-readable medium (such as a memory or a floppy disk) and comprising computer-executable instructions (i.e., executable by a processor of a computer) running on a computer such as that which has been described in conjunction with FIG. 1. Operating system 212 is an operating environment, and may be any type of environment running a computer that provides a graphical user interface. Commonly available graphical-user-interface operating environments include versions of Microsoft Windows, as has been described.

In the paragraph at page 10, line 16, through page 11, line 2:

B5
In the case of operating system 212, application code 214 provides for the functionality of the operating system, such as the manner by which input/output (I/O) devices (printers, monitors, etc.) are accessed within and by the computer, etc. Controls code 216 provides for graphical user interface 204 itself, including user-controllable pointer 206. In case of application program 222, application code 220 provides for a particular functionality, while controls code 218 provides for controls 208 displayable within graphical user interface 204. Similarly, in the case of application program 224, application code 226 provides for a particular functionality, while controls code 226 provides for controls 210 displayable within graphical user interface 204.

In the paragraph at page 11, lines 3-10:

B6
In one embodiment of the invention, the plurality of controls for a given computer program (such as controls 208 of program 222, or controls 210 of program 224) has a first configuration in which at least one of the controls is opaque, and a second configuration in which at least one of the controls is at least semi-transparent. The occurrence of a particular event switches the plurality of controls between the first and the second configurations. Thus, for program 222, in a first configuration at least one of the controls 208 is opaque, and in a second configuration, at least one of the controls 208 is at least semi-transparent.

In the paragraph at page 13, lines 8-15:

B7
In FIGs. 4(a)-4(c), diagrams showing operation of controls of a computer program displayable within a graphical user interface, according to another embodiment of the invention, are shown. Referring first to FIG. 4(a), within graphical user interface 400, user-controllable pointer 302 is shown as not positioned over any of the controls of control bar 404. Control bar 404 may represent the controls of a video cassette recorder (VCR) or digital video disc (DVD) player. Control bar 404 is fully opaque (minimum transparency), and thus clearly visible. FIG. 4(a) represents a first configuration of these controls.